

Malden Historic District  
(4003 Malden Drive)  
Malden  
Kanawha County  
West Virginia

HABS No. WW-210-33

HABS  
WVA,  
20-MAL  
34-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Architectural and Engineering Record  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20243

HABS  
WVA  
20-MALD,  
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

MALDEN HISTORIC DISTRICT, 4003 Malden Drive

HABS No. WV-210-33

Location: 4003 Malden Drive, Malden, Kanawha County, West Virginia  
(Within the boundaries of the Malden Historic District)

Present Owners and Occupants: Ira and Ruth Layton

Present Use: Dwelling

Significance: Built between 1841 and 1865 at an undetermined date or dates, this house was formerly a rectangular brick building with a smaller log portion at the south side. In 1974, extensive renovation disguised the house, although the asymmetrical massing and fenestration of the east front provide a clue as to the previous distribution of elements. In spite of the drastic renovations, this structure was listed in the National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form as making a major contribution to the Malden Historic District.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Between 1841 and 1865, actual dates not known.
2. Architect: Not known.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The property was conveyed by David Ruffner to John Steele by a deed dated August 15, 1816. The property was sold by John Steele to Colonel Andrew Donnally and wife, who in turn devised it to Lewis Langley on May 21, 1841, for a fee of \$300.00. On December 19, 1865, Lewis W. Langley sold his house and lot adjoining the Town of Malden to Moses Norton, Trustee for Mary Putney, wife of James Putney, as recorded in Deed Book 2 at page 26 in the Kanawha County Courthouse.

On May 20, 1884, Moses Norton, Trustee for Mary E. Putney, sold the house and lot to Squire Hicks and John G. Hicks. After the death of Squire Hicks in 1926, the property was willed to Letha M. Skiles (1928), John H. Skiles (1965), Myrtle Sneed Skiles (1972), and Pauline E. Hutchinson (1974).

On June 29, 1974, Pauline E. Hutchinson conveyed said property to its present owners, Ira and Ruth Layton.

4. Alterations and additions: At some time between 1841 and 1865, the Langley house was erected on a somewhat smaller scale than the present-day structure. The first dwelling is said to have been a two-room, two-story brick structure with an attached shed. Later, a south wing is said to have been added, making the house a half-brick, half-log structure.

The main entrance was relocated from the west front to the east. (This attests to the shift of activity away from the riverfront to what is now called Malden Drive.)

When the Laytons purchased the house in 1974, major remodeling occurred both on the interior, mainly for modern convenience purposes, and the exterior. The exterior received a brick veneer, and windows were replaced. The front porch was rebuilt with extruded aluminum columns and a concrete floor. Later, the roof was recovered, and a garage was built at the south end of the house.

B. Historical Context:

The property was originally owned by David Ruffner. The Ruffners, along with the Putneys and Dickinsons, were land and salt barons at the Salines (now Malden) who gradually sold off their holdings lot by lot. Mrs. Pauline E. Hutchinson, who inherited the house and lot from the Skiles family, was the widow of Dr. Hutchinson, who practiced medicine in Malden for many years.

Prepared by Donna Sue White  
Historian  
Historic American Building Survey Team  
June 1979

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION:

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The original character of this brick and log house is entirely concealed by its modern shell.
2. Condition of fabric: The completely altered fabric is carefully maintained.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: This house is approximately 65'-7" in width, across four bays, and 49'-0" in depth. The house is composed of a two-story rectangular block to which one-story additions have been made to the west and south.

2. Wall construction: Walls are veneered to grade level with mottled red brick set in black mortar. All trim is white, the majority of it being of extruded or formed aluminum. The current owner says that the main block was originally constructed in two parts - one being of solid brick, the other of logs sheathed in brick.
3. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc.: A concrete porch covered in green artificial turf and having a shed roof supported by four two-story columns fronts the east wall of the main block. The columns are surfaced in light gauge aluminum extruded to simulate fluting.
4. Chimneys: A single chimney occurs at the north end of the main block just inside the exterior wall surface.
5. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: The entrance door on the east front is a plain wooden door having no panels or decorative embellishment. It is framed by an elaborate surround having among its decorative motifs a broken pediment, and pilasters which are not sufficiently tall to reach the lintel.
  - b. Windows and shutters: Windows throughout consist of aluminum sashes set in aluminum frames, muntins being applied to glass in each sash. Louvered metal shutters permanently attached to the wall surface occur to each side of all windows.
6. Roof:
  - a. Shape, covering: The roofs covering the main block and the additions to the south are gabled. Shallow-pitched shed roofs cover the front porch and the rear porch immediately south of the rear addition. All roofs are covered with white asphalt shingles.
  - b. Cornice, eaves: Eaves project beyond all exterior walls. Cornices are undecorated, being surfaced in simple metal extrusions.

C. Site:

1. General setting: The principal front faces east onto Malden Drive from atop a long lawn sloping down toward the street. According to the present owner, the west side of the house had originally been the entrance facade, facing in the direction of the river.
2. Outbuildings: A single, detached double-car garage occurs on the southwest corner of the site.

Prepared by James Murray Howard  
Project Supervisor  
Historic American Buildings Survey  
July 1979

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

1. Old Views: The Ira Layton family, present owners of the house, have old photographs of the house taken before they started any of their major renovation.
2. Bibliography:
  - a. Primary and unpublished sources.

Deed Book, Kanawha County Courthouse Records, Deed Book 2 at page 26.
  - b. Interviews:

Mrs. Ruth Layton, 4003 Malden Drive, Malden, West Virginia.  
(Present owner of the Langley house.)

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) with funding from the West Virginia Department of Culture and History. The recording was completed under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, Principal Architect of HABS, in the HABS field office in Charleston, West Virginia. Recording was carried out during the summer of 1979 by James Murray Howard (University of Illinois), Project Supervisor; Donna White, Project Historian; and Student Architects James Barrett Garrison (Carnegie-Mellon University) and Keith Edward Soto (University of Florida). The photographs were taken by Walter Smalling, Jr., Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service Photographer.